Disinvestment of Government share in VSNL

595. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are going ahead with disinvestment of its shares upto 26 per cent in VSNL;

(b) if so, whether Government had earlier expressed serious concern over the security implications of the privatization of VSNL;

(c) if so, whether the issue was referred to the MHA and other concerned security agencies before going ahead with disinvestment;

(d) if so, the response thereto and the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) Security concern would be suitably dealt with in consultation with Department of Disinvestment and Ministry of Home Affairs at the time of disinvestment.

Non-delivery of money orders

596. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of complaints made during the financial year 2000-2001 with regard to the non-delivery of the money orders and the quantum of money involved therein, zone-wise;

(b) whether any departmental enquiry has been initiated to find out the culprits;

(c) if so, the details thereof, zone-wise; and

(d) what steps are being taken to make the better use of the Post Office network for sending the money orders and it becomes a very popular service of the Post Office?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Data regarding

complaints for the current financial year is available upto 31.12.2000 and this shows that 176523 complaints with regard to non-delivery of money orders were received, involving a total amount of Rs. 138534579.90. Circle wise details are given in Annexure.

(b) and (c) On receipt of a complaint, it is immediately acknowledged and enquiries are taken up with the paying office. If no reply is received within 10 days, there is standing provision to issue a duplicate money order and arrange immediate payment. On completion of enquiry, officials found responsible for delay are suitably punished. During the period from 1.4.2000 to 31.12.2000, 449 officials were awarded different kinds of punishments in this regard. Circle wise details are given in the enclosed statement. (*see* below)

(d) The department has a network of 139 VSATs transmitting money orders through satellite channels. This includes 62 high speed VSAT centres set up during the year 1999-2000. Adequate extension of the VSAT network through successive plan schemes can provide electronic transmission for the entire money order traffic. Benefit of modernised money order service is further extended to customers through 884 Extended Satellite Money Orders stations located throughout the country and linked to the VSAT network. Better administrative supervision, periodical and regular checks on service quality and prompt attention to customer grievances are some of the methods, adopted for ensuring greater efficiency of this service.

Statement

Details of complaints received about non-delivery of money order with amount involved and the action taken against the employees, for the period 1.4.2000 to 31.12.2000.

Name of Circle	No. of complaints	Amount involved	No. of officials punished
Assam	3566	14,89,402.00	NIL
Andhra Pradesh	1,962	07,63,712.00	Three
Bihar	3,874	22,21,493.00	NIL
Delhi	30,349	2,90,18,688.00	One

Name of Circle	No. of complaints	Amount involved	No. of officials punished
J&K	2580	4058081.00	One
Gujarat	03	1460.00	One
H.P.	3,371	37,34,841.00	One
Haryana	15,396	1,23,45,380.00	Three
Kerala	426	3,07,448.00	Twenty Three
Karnataka	37	99,357.90	Twenty four
Madhya Pradesh	6973	20,77466.00	Eleven
Maharashtra	40,103	40051452.00	Nil
North East	315	28200.00	Nil
Orissa	1,724	14,82,248.00	Nil
Punjab	13,053	10,67,5350.00	Nil
Rajasthan	4,073	507250.00	Two Hundred sixteen
Tamil Nadu	4.105	35,44,589.00	Ninteen
U.P.	31577	1,9583162.00	One Hundred Forty Six
West Bengal	13,036	65,45,000.00	Nil
TOTAL	176523	13,8534579.90	Four Hundred Forty nine

GDP in the year of 2000-2001

†597. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the rate of Gross Domestic Product achieved at the end of the year 2000;

(b) whether it is a fact that the target has not been achieved to some extent;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the target fixed for next year with regard to Gross Domestic Product and the steps taken to achieve it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.